

NCDOT Rail Division

# The Rail Report



@NC\_By\_Train



NCByTrain

ncbytrain.org

919-707-4700

February 2022

## Rail Bridge Between Morehead City and Radio Island Improved



The NCDOT Rail Division, North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA) and Carolina Coastal Railway (CLNA) have partnered to complete an upgrade to the bascule bridge over the Newport River. This bridge serves as a critical link between the Port of Morehead City and Radio Island, connecting these two important port resources and their supporting rail facilities. The project installed new steel ties and a permanent locking mechanism, in addition to repairing the bridge counterweight. The improvements will ensure the bridge continues to support important commerce for the NCSPA and its customers.

More than half of the Port of Morehead City's rail infrastructure is on Radio Island. The recent upgrade to the bridge follows a \$2.1 million grant awarded to NCSPA by USDOT's Maritime Administration in 2021. This grant upgraded the aging rail infrastructure on Radio Island, including 6,100 feet of new track, 25,000 feet of ballast and ties, replaced 10 turnouts and improved four rail crossings. The port owns more than 22,000 feet of rail track on Radio Island with the ability to accommodate increasing rail traffic. Through its marketing efforts and partnerships, NCSPA and their customers have expanded rail use. The port has a study underway to

*Continued...*

"The improvements to the bascule bridge allows the Morehead City port to safely access rail on Radio Island; this important operating track allows the port to operate and store railcars for our many rail customers."

*— Chip Killmeier, Director, Port of Morehead City*



Photos: North Carolina State Ports Authority





further develop Radio Island and attract new customers and industries like roll-on-roll-off automotive and the offshore wind supply chain.

The total project cost was \$1 million with NCSPA and CLNA contributing 50% of the funding, and NCDOT Rail providing 50% funding through the Freight Rail and Rail

Crossing Safety Improvement (FRRCSI) program. The FRRCSI program, started in 2013 by the N.C. General Assembly, provides funds for the enhancement of freight rail service, short line infrastructure improvements, rail corridor preservation and railroad-roadway crossing safety.

## Yadkin Valley Railroad Crossing Improved in Surry County



*Greenwood Circle crossing after improvements*

The NCDOT Rail Division continues to improve railroad crossings across the state. This month's featured crossing is on the Yadkin Valley Railroad in Surry County. This project improved a crossing on Greenwood Circle near Burch. The crossing surface of old asphalt had no flangeway material, and gravel filled the gauge of the track, creating a rough crossing. A new asphalt and rubber rail seal was installed, and the crossing repaved, to give a safer and smoother ride. The Yadkin Valley Railroad, NCDOT Surry County maintenance, and the NCDOT Rail Division partnered on this crossing improvement.







## Dreamville Festival Attendees Can Save 25% off Tickets for NC By Train

Those traveling to the [Dreamville Festival](#) in Raleigh on April 2-3 can save 25% on NC By Train tickets.

Daily train service is available from New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., plus seven additional stops between Charlotte and Raleigh.

Sit back, relax and arrive at [Raleigh Union Station](#), which is only two miles from Dorothea Dix Park, where the Dreamville Festival is being held. Rent a bike outside the station or board a shuttle bus that will take you directly to the festival. Downtown hotels are also just blocks away.

See terms and conditions below.

[Click here to book tickets and save 25%](#) (code: V681)

### Terms & Conditions

- Ticket sale runs Feb. 10-April 4
- Valid for travel between April 1-4
- Valid for travel on [Carolinian](#) and [Piedmont](#) trains to Raleigh and Cary
- Offer valid for coach seats
- Cannot be combined with other offers

For schedules and more information visit [ncbytrain.org](http://ncbytrain.org) or call 1-800-BY-TRAIN.

## Bikes on Board

Part of the joy of a journey by train is the ability to explore the stops along the way, and what better way to do that than by bike?

Baggage cars on the *Piedmont* trains have six bike racks that make it simple and hassle-free to bring your bicycle on your trip. The *Carolinian*, *Crescent*, *Palmetto*, *Silver Meteor* and *Silver Star* have six to eight racks, depending on the type of baggage car.

There is no handling fee at station stops between Charlotte and Raleigh, so you can roll your bike on board for free! Reserve your space when making an advanced ticket reservation.

Learn more at [NCByTrain.org](http://NCByTrain.org).





# Welcome, New Rail Division Staff



*L to R: New employees Ain Flowers, Connie Cogdell and Carolyn Bates*

The Rail Division recently added three new members to the team.



**Ain Flowers** joined the Rail Division in November, and is involved in safety and outreach efforts, working with the division's BeRailSafe

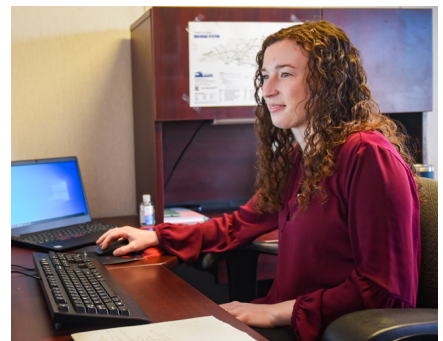
program. Previously, Ms. Flowers worked with the Department of Revenue on a variety of items from compliance issues to special projects. She also has experience in customer service, program coordination and training. Ms. Flowers is a graduate of Greensboro College.

**Connie Cogdell, PE** is the new Engineer II in the Engineering Coordination Unit, where she works on crossing safety projects, traffic separation studies



and grade separation projects. Connie comes to us from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality where she worked on underground storage tank applications and compliance. She also has prior experience with NCDOT in Transportation Mobility and Safety and Structures Management. Ms. Cogdell has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from North Carolina A&T and is a registered Professional Engineer.

**Carolyn Bates** is our newest employee in the Rail Division's Rail Signal Unit. Ms. Bates came to the division from the Transportation Engineering Associates program, a professional development program for recent college graduates. Prior to joining NCDOT, she worked for a private engineering firm. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire.





## Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



*View of concourse and platform construction*



*Platform deck work between 4th and Trade streets*

The Rail Division continues to lead the construction of Charlotte Gateway Station Phase 1. NCDOT is working with the City of Charlotte in their efforts to progress Phase 2 with developer Charlotte Gateway Partners to deliver the transformative station and mixed use development.





*Track construction behind Panthers Stadium*



*Number 10 turnout at new control point "Gateway" staged for installation*